

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the claims have been amended to better define the invention.

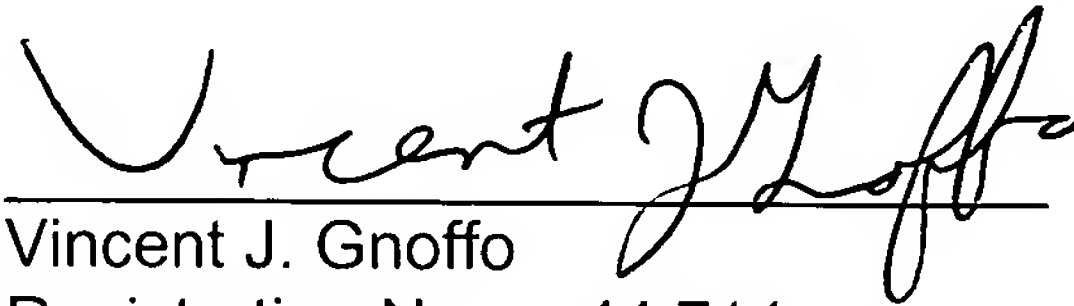
Claims 1 and 4-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,464). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Lewis et al. discloses means for assembling and signaling billing information and caller-dialed-number information to a service provider in the voice channel during call setup to connecting carriers. The service provider is able to utilize the billing information and the caller-dialed-number information for making the decision to deny a call requesting the service information. This enables the service provider to limit services to only those callers for whom service fees can be charged to the caller's telephone bill. A local exchange performs digit analysis and translation before routing the call to the service provider. A local exchange carrier may translate a caller-dialed 7-digit 555 number into a ten-digit phantom number and then passes the call to the appropriate carrier assigned the ten-digit routing plan.

Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggest a service control point that converts a dialed number to a network address. Lewis et al. discloses that the service management system (SMS) 180 uses a dialed number to access a tandem side of the SMS database. The SMS database translates the 800 dialed number into network carrier address and routing addresses. See Col. 8, lines 36-48. Conversely, in the claims the service control point (SCP) converts the dialed number to a routable telephone number, not an SMS. See Claims and support on page 24, lines 28-32, and Figs. 3-5.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Gnoffo", written over a horizontal line.

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